

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel Claims 86; 91, and 107, amend claims 53, 62, 66, 84, 87, 89, 92, 94, 96-97, 102-106, 108-109, 118, and 128, and add new claims 134-136 as follows:

1-52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) A disk for information storage, comprising:
(a) a substrate; [[and]]
(b) an information layer for containing information; and
(c) an underlayer located between the substrate and the information layer,

wherein at least one of the following conditions is true:

(i) the disk has at least two recording parameters that vary inversely radially outwardly and the underlayer has a thickness that decreases from an inner radial location of the disk to an outer radial location of the disk; and

10 (ii) the information layer has a thickness that increases progressively from an inner disk diameter to an outer disk diameter and the thickness of the information layer at the outermost peripheral information storage location is greater than the thickness of the information layer at the innermost information storage location.

54. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein condition (i) is true.

55. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 54, wherein the at least two recording parameters of condition (i) include a coercivity and at least one of a magnetic moment (M_{rt}) and magnetic remanence and wherein the at least two recording parameters are substantially constant along the length of a selected radial track.

56. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 55, wherein the magnetic remanence and magnetic moment of the disk vary radially outwardly.

57. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 55, wherein the at least one of the magnetic remanence and the magnetic moment ("M_{rt}") of the disk increases from the inner disk diameter to the outer disk diameter, and the coercivity decreases from the inner disk diameter to the outer disk diameter.

58. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 55, wherein a first radial zone has first recording properties that are at least substantially constant throughout the first radial zone and a second radial zone has second recording properties that are at least substantially constant throughout the second radial zone, wherein the first radial zone is located nearer a center of the disk than the second radial zone, and wherein the first and second recording properties are different from one another.

59. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 54, wherein the chemical composition of the information layer varies radially.

60. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 59, wherein the chemical composition of the information layer comprises from about 60 to about 80 atomic percent cobalt, from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent chromium, from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent tantalum, from about 1 to about 10 atomic percent platinum, and from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent boron.

61. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 55, wherein the magnetic remanence is one of the recording parameters, the magnetic remanence ranges from about 100 to about 600 emu/cm³, and a first magnetic remanence at a first inner radial location is no more than about 95% of a second magnetic remanence at a second outer radial location.

62. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 55, wherein the magnetic moment is one of the recording parameters, the magnetic moment magnetic remanence ranges from about 100 to about 600 emu/cm³, and a first magnetic moment at a first inner radial location is no more than about 95% of a second magnetic moment at a second outer radial location.

63. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein the at least two recording parameters comprise coercivity.

64. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 63, wherein the underlayer has a thickness that decreases from an inner radial location of the disk to an outer radial location of the disk.

65. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 63, wherein the coercivity ranges from about 2,000 to about 6,000 Oersteds and the information layer has a squareness ranging from about 0.6 to about 1.0.

66. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 53, ~~further comprising an underlayer located between the substrate and the information layer, wherein the variation in the thickness of the underlayer having a thickness that varies radially outwardly to causes~~ at least one of the at least two recording parameters to vary radially.

67. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 66, wherein a coercivity of the information layer decreases from an inner radial location of the disk to an outer radial location of the disk.

68. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein condition (ii) is true.

69. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 68, wherein the thickness of the information layer ranges from about 60 to about 300 angstroms and the information layer has a first thickness at a first inner radial location and a second thickness at a second outer radial location and the first thickness is at least about 75% of the second thickness.

70. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein the information layer includes a first magnetic layer, a second magnetic layer, and an at least substantially non-magnetic layer located between the first and second magnetic layers and a thickness of at least one of the first and second magnetic layers increases from the inner diameter to the outer diameter.

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71. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 70, wherein the substrate includes one of the following: an aluminum plate, a ceramic plate, and a glass-based plate.

72. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 70, further comprising:
a protective layer, the information layer being located between the protective layer and the underlayer.

73. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 72, further comprising:
a barrier layer that is located between the information layer and the protective layer.

74. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 73, further comprising:
a lubricant layer that is located adjacent to the protective layer and separated from the information layer by the protective layer.

75. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, further comprising:
a nickel-phosphorus layer that is located between the substrate and the underlayer.

76. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein conditions (i) and (ii) are true.

77. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 76, wherein a bit length in an outer diameter region is greater than a bit length in an inner diameter region.

78. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein, in the at least one of the following conditions, the variation in at least two recording parameters of condition (i) and the increase in information layer thickness of condition (ii), as appropriate, is at least substantially linear.

79. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein, in the at least one of the following conditions, the variation in at least two recording parameters of condition (i) and the increase in information layer thickness of condition (ii), as appropriate, is at least substantially rectilinear.

80. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein, in the at least one of the following conditions, the variation in at least two recording parameters of condition (i) and the increase in information layer thickness of condition (ii), as appropriate, is at least substantially curvilinear.

81. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein, in the at least one of the following conditions, the variation in at least two recording parameters of condition (i) and the increase in information layer thickness of condition (ii), as appropriate, is discontinuous along the radius of the disk.

82. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein the information layer has a first areal density at a first inner radial location and a second areal density at a second

outer radial location and the first areal density is at least about 105% of the second areal density.

83. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 82, wherein the first areal density ranges from about 105 to about 140% of the second areal density.

84. (Currently Amended) A disk for information storage, comprising:

(a) a substrate; and

(b) an information layer operable to contain information, wherein ~~at least one of the following conditions is true:~~ (i) the information layer has a first magnetic remanence coercivity at a first inner radial location that is ~~less~~ more than a second magnetic remanence coercivity of the information layer at a second outer radial location and (ii) the information layer has a first magnetic moment at the first inner radial location that is less than a second magnetic moment of the information layer at the second outer radial location.

85. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 84, wherein a bit length in the second outer radial location is greater than a bit length in the first inner radial location.

86. (Canceled)

87. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim [[86]]84, wherein ~~[[the]]~~a first magnetic remanence at the first inner radial location is no more than about 95% of ~~[[the]]~~a second magnetic remanence at the second outer radial location.

88. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 87, wherein the first and second magnetic remanence each range from about 100 to about 600 emu/cm³.

89. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim [[86]]84, wherein the chemical composition of the information layer at the first inner radial location layer is different than the chemical composition of the information layer at the second outer radial location.

90. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 89, wherein the chemical composition is from about 60 to about 80 atomic percent cobalt, from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent chromium, from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent tantalum, from about 1 to about 10 atomic percent platinum, and from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent boron.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim [[91]]84, wherein a first thickness of the information layer at the first inner radial location is less than a second thickness of the information layer at the second outer radial location.

93. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 92, wherein the first and second thicknesses each range from about 60 to about 300 angstroms.

94. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim [[91]]84, wherein the first magnetic moment is no more than about 95% of the second magnetic moment.

95. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 94, wherein the first and second magnetic moments each range from about 0.2 to about 1.0 memu/cm².

96. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 84, wherein the information layer has a first coercivity magnetic remanence at the first inner radial location that is [[more]]less than a second coercivity magnetic remanence of the information layer at the second outer radial location.

97. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim [[96]]84, wherein the first and second coercivities each range from about 2,000 to about 6,000 Oersteds.

98. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 96, wherein a squareness of the disk at each of the first inner and second outer radial locations ranges from about 0.6 to about 1.0.

99. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 84, wherein the disk further comprises an underlayer between the substrate and the information layer and wherein the underlayer has a first underlayer thickness at the first inner radial location that is greater than a second underlayer thickness of the underlayer at the second outer radial location.

100. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 99, wherein each of the first and second underlayer thicknesses range from about 50 to about 5,000 angstroms.

101. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 85, wherein a first areal density at the first inner radial location is at least about 105% of a second areal density at the second outer radial location.

102. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 84, wherein a radial gradient in at least one of (a) the ~~magnetic remanence~~ coercivity in condition (i) and (b) the magnetic moment in condition (ii) is at least substantially linear.

103. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 84, wherein a radial gradient in at least one of (a) the ~~magnetic remanence~~ coercivity in condition (i) and (b) the magnetic moment in condition (ii) is at least substantially rectilinear.

104. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 84, wherein a radial gradient in at least one of (a) the ~~magnetic remanence~~ coercivity in condition (i) and (b) the magnetic moment in condition (ii) is at least substantially curvilinear.

105. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 84, wherein a radial gradient in at least one of (a) the ~~magnetic remanence~~ coercivity in condition (i) and (b) the magnetic moment in condition (ii) is discontinuous along the radius of the disk.

106. (Currently Amended) A disk for information storage, comprising:
(a) a substrate; and
(b) an information layer configured to contain information, wherein a first recording parameter of the information layer at a first radial location is higher than the first recording parameter at a second, different radial location and a second recording parameter of the information layer at the first radial location is lower than the second recording parameter at the second radial location, [[and]] wherein the first and second first recording parameters are different from one another, and wherein the first recording parameter is coercivity and the second recording parameter is magnetic moment.

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107. (Canceled)

108. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim [[107]]106, wherein a third recording parameter of the information layer at the first radial location is lower than the third recording parameter at the second radial location and wherein the second third recording parameter is magnetic remanence.

109. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 108, wherein the first magnetic remanence at the first radial location is no more than about 95% of the second magnetic remanence at the second radial location.

110. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 109, wherein the first and second magnetic remanence each range from about 100 to about 600 emu/cm³.

111. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 106, wherein the chemical composition of the information layer at the first radial location layer is different than the chemical composition of the information layer at the second radial location.

112. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 111, wherein the chemical composition is from about 60 to about 80 atomic percent cobalt, from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent chromium, from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent tantalum, from about 1 to about 10 atomic percent platinum, and from about 0.5 to about 5 atomic percent boron.

113. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 107, wherein a first coercivity is at the first radial location and a second coercivity is at the second radial location.

114. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 113, wherein the first and second coercivities each range from about 2,000 to about 6,000 Oersteds.

115. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 113, wherein a squareness of the disk at each of the first inner and second outer radial locations ranges from about 0.6 to about 1.0.

116. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 113, wherein the disk further comprises an underlayer between the substrate and the information layer and wherein the underlayer has a first underlayer thickness at the first radial location that is greater than a second underlayer thickness of the underlayer at the second radial location and wherein the first radial location is located nearer a center of the disk than the second radial location.

117. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 116, wherein each of the first and second underlayer thicknesses range from about 50 to about 5,000 angstroms.

118. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 106, wherein ~~the second recording parameter is magnetic moment and the information layer has a first magnetic moment at the first radial location and a second magnetic moment at the second radial location.~~

119. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 118, wherein a first thickness of the information layer at the first radial location is less than a second thickness of the information layer at the second radial location and wherein the first radial location is nearer a center of the disk than the second radial location.

120. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 119, wherein the first and second information layer thicknesses each range from about 60 to about 300 angstroms.

121. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 119, wherein the first magnetic moment is no more than about 95% of the second magnetic moment.

122. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 121, wherein the first and second magnetic moments each range from about 0.2 to about 1.0 memu/cm².

123. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 107, wherein a radial gradient in at least one of (a) the magnetic remanence, (b) the magnetic moment, and (c) the coercivity is at least substantially rectilinear.

124. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 107, wherein a radial gradient in at least one of (a) the magnetic remanence, (b) the magnetic moment, and (c) the coercivity is at least substantially curvilinear.

125. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 107, wherein a radial gradient in at least one of (a) the magnetic remanence, (b) the magnetic moment, and (c) the coercivity is discontinuous along the radius of the disk.

126. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein the information layer has a first thickness at a first radial position and a second thickness at a second radial position, the first and second radial positions being measured from a disk center, wherein the first thickness is less than the second thickness and wherein the first radial position is closer to the disk center than the second radial position.
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127. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 126, further comprising an underlayer located between the substrate and the information layer, the underlayer having a third thickness at the first radial position and a fourth thickness at the second radial position, wherein the third thickness is greater than the fourth thickness.

128. (Currently Amended) The disk of Claim 84, wherein at least one of the magnetic remanence coercivity and magnetic moment varies inversely to the coercivity as a function of disk radius.

129. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 92, further comprising an underlayer located between the substrate and the information layer, the underlayer having a third thickness at the first radial location and a fourth thickness at the second radial location, wherein the third thickness is greater than the fourth thickness.

130. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 116, wherein a first thickness of the information layer at the first radial location is less than a second thickness of the information layer at the second radial location.

131. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 53, wherein the information layer is configured to operatively exchange information with a magnetoresistive head.

132. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 84, wherein the information layer is configured to operatively exchange information with a magnetoresistive head.

133. (Previously Presented) The disk of Claim 106, wherein the information layer is configured to operatively exchange information with a magnetoresistive head.

Please add the following new claims 134-136;

134. (New) A disk for information storage, comprising:

- (a) a substrate;
- (b) an information layer for containing information;
- (c) an underlayer located between the substrate and the information layer, the underlayer having a third thickness at the first radial position and a fourth thickness at the second radial position, wherein the third thickness is greater than the fourth thickness and wherein at least one of the following conditions is true:

5 (i) the disk has at least two recording parameters that vary inversely radially outwardly and

10 (ii) the information layer has a thickness that increases progressively from an inner disk diameter to an outer disk diameter, wherein the information layer has a first thickness at a first radial position and a second thickness at a second radial position, the first and second radial positions being measured from a disk center, wherein the first thickness is less than the second thickness and wherein the first radial position is closer to the disk center than
15 the second radial position.

135. (New) A disk for information storage, comprising:

(a) a substrate;

(b) an information layer operable to contain information, wherein the information

5 layer has a first magnetic moment at the first inner radial location that is less than a second magnetic moment of the information layer at the second outer radial location and wherein a first thickness of the information layer at the first inner radial location is less than a second thickness of the information layer at the second outer radial location; and

(c) an underlayer located between the substrate and the information layer, the

10 underlayer having a third thickness at the first radial location and a fourth thickness at the second radial location, wherein the third thickness is greater than the fourth thickness.

136. (New) The disk of Claim 135, wherein the information layer has a first coercivity at the first inner radial location that is more than a second coercivity of the information layer at the second outer radial location.